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Posted June 28, 2006

Dredging for port to begin in July

Channel is one of nation's busiest

By Malavika Jagannathan

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The Port of Green Bay — one of the nation's busiest water channels — will soon get an annual cleansing.

Recently the Detroit district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$1.7 million contract to Michigan-based Luedtke Engineering Co. to dredge the federally regulated waters.

Each year, the port sees millions of tons of cargo go through, including coal, asphalt, salt, cement and forest products. Some of that material ends up deposited in the channel.

In 2005, the port saw 2.52 million tons of cargo. In 2004, 2.36 million tons were shipped in 2003.

The mechanical dredging, which involves removing sediment from the bottom of the channel to go through, will start next month and run through August.

"Green Bay is one of the few that we dredge every year because it is a busy port," says a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

About 82,000 cubic tons of material will be removed from the navigation channel and sent to the Confined Disposal Facility at the north end of Military Avenue in Green Bay.

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